



THE GATEWAY



volume CI number 30 ♦ the official student newspaper at the university of alberta ♦ www.thegatewayonline.ca ♦ tuesday, february 1, 2011

inside



Slam dunk for Hoop Bears

The Court Bears are headed for the playoffs where they hope to win a championship banner, clinching a berth this past weekend with their fifth-straight win.

SPORTS, PAGE 16



Eng Phys takes Geer Week victory

Ben Nay explains the otherworldly ritual that is Geer Week in the Engineering Faculty.

OPINION, PAGE 7

The Mechanic of murder

Jason Statham's latest film is, as usual, all violence and no plot.

A&E, PAGE 12

Rick Mercer crashes a concrete toboggan

NEWS, PAGE 4



ILLUSTRATION: LAUREN ALSTON

DIVERSITY AND MOVEMENT See page 3 for a schedule of I-Week events on topics ranging from multiculturalism in Canada to immigration.

Boyden opens I-Week discussing migration

HAYLEY DUNNING
News Staff

"What proud Canadian has not watched a flock of Canadian geese winging in a great 'v' overhead, making their insufferable honking noise and landing temporarily to sully schoolyards and playgrounds, before migrating off to wherever they migrate to?"

"It's as if our movement with the seasons and with the hunt is in our DNA."

JOSEPH BOYDEN
CANADIAN AUTHOR

This was Joseph Boyden's unique bridge to the world of migration, delivered in his International Week keynote in the Myer Horowitz theatre Monday afternoon. Boyden, an acclaimed Canadian author, identified with what he calls "creative migrants" – writers, musicians, performers, and academics, who all wander in search of inspiration.

Expressing his own relation with migration, Boyden compared

himself to the geese; splitting his time between a home in New Orleans and one on the Moose River in Ontario.

He described entering New Orleans like "stepping into the mouth of an over-heated dog" — a heat he was not pleased to leave for the extreme cold of Edmonton. He also called his relationship with the city as love/hate, where the ease with which you can fall in love is diminished over time as social issues are brought to the surface.

His other home, on the Moose River, with its twin towns of Moosonee and Moose Factory, is a clear inspiration for Boyden's novels, which often feature strong Cree characters. He called the river magical, and dismissed the claims of logging companies to deforest it, saying that the land belongs to "everyone and no one." Although he identifies with the First Nations, Boyden thinks that we are all a migratory people.

"It's as if our movement with the seasons and with the hunt is in our DNA," Boyden said.

His first novel *Three Day Road* won several awards, including the CBA Libris fiction book of the year. Boyden chose to read two passages from his second book, *Through Black Spruce*, that he felt best expresses his characters' wandering nature.

PLEASE SEE **BOYDEN** ♦ PAGE 3

DKE fraternity suspended as U of A group for five years

ALEXANDRIA ELDRIDGE
Senior News Editor

The University of Alberta administration has suspended the Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity chapter for five years due to hazing activity, and although the group will continue to exist, they will no longer be affiliated with the U of A.

U of A Dean of Students Frank Robinson announced January 27 that the university investigation revealed that hazing activities had taken place. Some of the hazing allegations raised in October 2010 included forcing pledges to eat their own vomit, closing them into a plywood box, and depriving them of sleep.

Robinson could not go into detail about the hazing or the investigation, but added that they are not pursuing charges against individual students. The chapter, whose members are known as "Dekes," admitted that both students and alumni were involved in hazing.

During the five-year suspension, the group will lose its student group status, meaning they won't be allowed to use the university's name or insignia, use the university's liquor or gaming licenses, rent university property or equipment, or participate in university governance or other activities.

However, Kappa Sigma President Bryan Launier said that he doesn't think the sanctions are going to change

anything, as the fraternity will still exist, just not as a registered student group.

"I think the university did as much as they could within the power they had. I know if it was the same issue with my fraternity, we would've had a lot more issues coming from our headquarters and would've been dealt a lot harsher treatment from our fraternity's own headquarters," he said.

In December, DKE International provisionally suspended the U of A chapter for three years. A local Alumni Council will be formed to monitor the activities of the chapter and revise the initiation process. Initiations will take place in 2011, adhering to the standards of International.

Pi Kappa Alpha President Justin Kuchmak said that he didn't want to speak for his entire fraternity, but personally felt that the punishment wasn't severe enough.

"Hazing goes against the student code of conduct, violates personal rights, and is unacceptable in not just a Greek letter organization, but any organization. Due to the severe nature of the offence, I believe that the punishment levied against the Dekes was not harsh enough," he said. "At the end of the day, it falls under the Dean's discretion, which we must support."

PLEASE SEE **SUSPENSION** ♦ PAGE 4
ALSO SEE **EDITORIAL** ♦ PAGE 6

THE GATEWAY

www.thegatewayonline.ca

tuesday, february 1, 2011
volume CI number 30

Published since november 21, 1910
Circulation 8,000
ISSN 0845-356X

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THE GATEWAY is published by the Gateway Student Journalism Society (GSJS), a student-run, autonomous, apolitical not-for-profit organization, operated in accordance with the Societies Act of Alberta.

THE GATEWAY is proud to be a founding member of the Canadian University Press.

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The Gateway periodically adjusts its circulation between 8,000 to 10,000 printed copies based on market fluctuations and other determining factors.

colophon

The Gateway is created using Macintosh computers, HP Scanjet flatbed scanners, and a Nikon Super Cool Scan optical film scanner. Adobe InDesign is used for layout. Adobe Illustrator is used for vector images, while Adobe Photoshop is used for raster images. Adobe Acrobat is used to create PDF files which are burned directly to plates to be mounted on the printing press. Text is set in a variety of sizes, styles, and weights of **FENICE**, **Joanna**, **Kepler** and **Whitney**. The *Manitoban* is the Gateway's sister paper, and we love her dearly, though "not in that way." The Gateway's games of choice are *Moron Test* and *Dead Space*.

contributors

Hayley Dunning, Evelyn Pankiv, Sara Kotow, Antony Ta, Lauren Alston, Bren Cargill, Stephen Cook, Brendan Trayner, Ryan Bromsgrove, Brendan Fitzgerald, Alex Migdal, Dulguun Bayasgalan, Carole Yue, Dustin Blumhagen, Gavin Bradley, Vanessa Lancaster, Ben Nay, Mim Fatmi, Dustin Banks, DJ Law, Paul Cressey, Derrick Nguyen, Bobby Williamson, Ross Vincent, Lauren Alston, Aaron Yeo, Julianna Damer, Peter Holmes, Sam Brooks



MATT HIRJI

TUG O' FACULTIES The Arts and Science students' associations organized a tug of war last week in Quad, with science students coming out victorious.

STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by
Simon Yackulic and Evelyn Pankiv

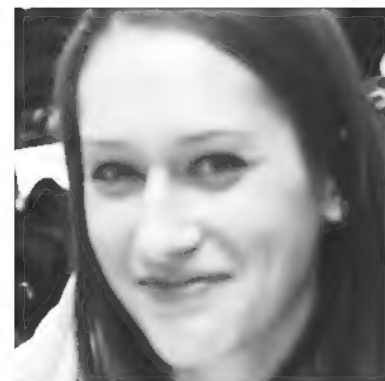
As you may be aware, research has shown that dinosaurs survived mass extinction by 700,000 years. When was the last time something you believed in was shown to be false?



Taylor Kiryluik
Arts I



Taylor Rhodes
Physical Education I



Carly Gibson
ALES/Education II



Steve Pasichnik
Arts IV

There's just so many stereotypes. Like 'if you sneeze with your eyes open, they might pop out of your head.' But who knows. Can you do it?

Pluto being a planet. Or the recent astrological signs being changed.

Like every day. I thought Macs were virus-proof, but apparently they're not. Which is really upsetting.

I thought love existed [...] I have to get an STD check.



"THE REASON A WRITER
WRITES A BOOK IS TO
FORGET A BOOK AND THE
REASON A READER READS
ONE IS TO REMEMBER IT."
- TOM WOLFE

Come to Gateway features meetings and forget a few things yourself. They're every Thursday at 6 p.m. on the third floor of SUB. Maybe one day you can invent a form of journalism and look this good in a white suit.

THE GATEWAY

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SU to launch new website

SARA KOTOW
News Writer

The Students' Union website is getting an upgrade after operating on the same software for more than a decade, with the aim of making it easier for students to access information. It should be up and running within the next few weeks.

The site will see major revamps to design, organization, and the underlying software. The upgrade is intended to make accessing information about student groups, campus events, and the university in general much easier for users to access.

Students' Union Digital Media Coordinator Craig Turner said that navigating through the current SU website can be time-consuming and frustrating, taking seven or eight clicks to access information.

"On the new site, you will never be more than two page loads away from any other page on the site," he said.

The new site is better organized with features to help students find information more easily, such as a drop-bar coloured by section, a directory of student services, and a search button that will take students to a web page with information rather than a list of links, such as the one on the current site.

Other new features of the website include social network sharing which will allow users to interact with the site and enable them to share information to Facebook and Twitter. Users will also be able to access the Twitter feeds of the Student Services and SU executives. As well, there will be a calendar of events which won't launch right away and will allow student groups to promote upcoming events. The old software would not have allowed these new features.

"The reason we chose the



DAN MCKECHNIE

UP AND RUNNING President Nick Dehod shows a mock-up of the new site.

software is because it is very scalable, so it allows us to add on a lot of different features as we go along. It allows us to build features that we don't even know exist yet. Because we went with a scalable system last time, it served us for 12 years. So we're hoping by developing this with a scalable platform, it will allow us to keep this platform in place for quite some time as well," Turner said.

"The current system has reached its life expectancy. We have done other facelifts in the past but the underlying software has remained. This time we are upgrading the underlying

software as well, which will bring us into the 21st century."

The website upgrade is part of the SU's plan to come up with better ways to communicate with its stakeholders. Other initiatives that will be seen around campus include expansions of InfoLink and of SUTV.

"This site really needed to meet the needs of the students first and the organization second," Turner added. "For example, even though the exam registry is a service of InfoLink, you need to be able to easily access the exam registry, even if you don't know that it belongs in the InfoLink."

Everyone is a migrant: Boyden

BOYDEN ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

One character, Will, has gone into hiding on an island in northern Ontario, and describes his change:

"I slowly became wild, like a rabbit or a bear, living in the ground, emerging each morning to hunt and to prepare."

Boyden and his wife are currently writing a screenplay for a movie version of *Three Day Road*, which he says will be cast with Aboriginal actors and have large portions spoken in Cree.

The subjects of his most recent book, a biography of Louis Riel and Gabriel Dumont called *Extraordinary Canadians: Louis Riel & Gabriel Dumont*, exemplify to him the idea of migration.

"[The book] is at its core a reflection of the people, the proud Métis, in search of a home. And certainly if this idea of searching for a home doesn't cut to the heart of what a migrant is, what does?"

Boyden's keynote was one of the opening events for this year's International Week, which is themed "World on the Move: Unpacking Migration." The week runs from January 31 to February 4, and will have presentations, exhibits, and speakers exploring the concept of multiculturalism and immigration.

INTERNATIONAL WEEK "WORLD ON THE MOVE: UNPACKING MIGRATION"

"The Story That Brought Me Here"

Writer Linda Goyette and several writers from around the world share their thoughts on creating a life in Alberta.
February 1, 7:30 - 9 p.m., 1-430 CCIS

"Migrant Labour in North America"

Yasmeen Abu-Laban, Department of Political Science, Helen Vallianatos, Department of Anthropology, and Julian Castro-Rea (moderator), Department of Political Science, will discuss the issues and controversies surrounding migrant labour in North America.
February 2, 7:30 - 9 p.m., 1-430 CCIS

"Canada: Land of Immigration - A Myth to be Busted?"

This session features Harsha Walia, Anna Kirova, Faculty of Education, and Malinda Smith (moderator), Department of Political Science. Canada's immigration record and multicultural policies are perceived to be some of the most progressive in the world. Is that perception matched with reality? Do we welcome immigrants with open arms or do we give them the cold Arctic shoulder?
February 3, 7:30 - 9 p.m., 1-430 CCIS

"Canadian and American Responses to Refugee Crises"

In this public lecture, Patrick Forrest discusses protracted refugee crises and the refugee admission programs of the United States and Canada, identifying potential approaches to facilitate and increase resettlement opportunities by improving efficiencies in the adjudication and admission process.
February 4, noon - 1 p.m., L1 Humanities Centre

Closing Ceremony — International Week Concert

With movement and flow, the closing concert will blend an array of artistic expressions that help communicate stories of migration. Dance, storytelling, and live painting will merge with diverse musical genres and traditions to create an unforgettable sensory experience that will move your feet, your mind, and your heart.
February 4, 7 p.m., Arts and Convocation Hall

*entries taken from the 2011 I-Week program guide

Want to know more about the study of Criminology?

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Program Application Deadline: March 1, 2010

CRIMINOLOGY PROGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIOLOGY
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ALBERTA

Contact Jessica Thomson at jessica.thomson@ualberta.ca for more information

STUDENTS' UNION QUIPS

"THERE WAS SOME DISCUSSION AROUND THE WORD 'VIBRATE.'"
— PRESIDENT NICK DEHOD, ATTEMPTING TO SAY VIBRANT.

GATEWAY NEWS

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Big crashes at concrete toboggan race

ANTONY TA
News Staff

The University of Alberta's host team at this weekend's Great Northern Concrete Toboggan Race (GNCTR) wooed crowds with impressive crashes and guest appearances, though they failed to take home an award.

The main race day, which took place on January 29, saw the top three spots awarded to teams from the University of Calgary, Queen's University, and Ryerson University. Rick Mercer made a guest appearance at this year's race and was on the sled with the U of A team on a few of their runs.

"[Mercer] loved our chicken mesh. He thought it was pretty Canadian," said U of A team member Tyler Windsor. "We never made it down the hill [because] the first time Rick Mercer rode, he drove it right into the wall!"

"On our first run, we went off the quarter pipe at the top. The back pin on our front ski was bent and when we tried to straighten it out, it sheared right off," said Elaine Rippon, the U of A team captain.

Other awards went to the team from U of C as they also captured the prizes for best costumes, best technical display, and people's choice. The U of C's alumni squad provided what will be remembered as the most spectacular crash of the event. Two riders were injured on the same run. One sustained a leg injury and the other sustained a head injury, but neither was seriously hurt.

Besides the U of C crash, there other notable incidents at this year's race. On one head-to-head run, the team from Université de Sherbrooke crossed the center divider and ended up on the same track as the UBC team while they were in the middle of their victory dance. A few teams rolled their toboggans, but left without injury. Others, such as the University of Toronto, couldn't even get off the start line as their toboggans became stranded at the top of the hill.



AARONYEO

CRASH AND BURN The U of A's concrete toboggan took a tumble on the way down Connor's Hill.

"In past years, the hills have been shorter and not quite as steep so you don't get quite as much momentum," said Nigel Parker, GNCTR 2011 conference co-chair. "The length [of Connor's Hill] kept the challenge of having to have a good steering system without being dangerous."

Next year's event will take place either at Carleton or Dalhousie. Parker believes it is

important to pass along lessons to these potential hosts for the coming months.

"We'll be working with them very closely to ensure that the event runs as smoothly as it possibly can," he said. "All the people who came out to the event were phenomenal students [and] a huge amount of effort went into this [from] a stellar group of volunteers."

DKE apologizes to U of A community

SUSPENSION ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

After a period of three years, the chapter may apply to have the suspension lifted at Robinson's discretion, provided they can demonstrate good behaviour during the period of suspension and provide a plan for future activities. In addition, during that time, the Dekes will be periodically meeting with Robinson.

"One aspect is a sanction and the other part I like to think of as more of a restorative model. We have agreed to work with [the fraternity] and help them come back, as opposed to simply slamming the door," Robinson said.

The last time a fraternity was sanctioned at the U of A was in 1999. That case also involved the DKE chapter.

SU Vice President (Student Life) Rory Tighe was pleased with the university's action.

"I'm glad the university took a stronger stance than the [DKE International] alumni council. I hope this will accomplish the goal," Tighe said. "I do think that this required a harsh sentence and I think that was appropriate. I'm hoping that this does lead to what the Dean said — rebuilding the community and allowing the Greek system to get back to its height."

InterFraternity Council President Mike Siebert also released a statement stating that DKE will be suspended from IFC as long as they are suspended as a student group.

"This group has acted in an immature and selfish manner and by doing so has undermined the positive impact that fraternities strive for," he wrote.

DKE posted a statement on their website last Thursday apologizing to the university community for their actions.

"We agree that hazing has no place at the University of Alberta or in fraternity life, and we, the Delta Phi chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon, apologize to the international fraternity, the University of Alberta, the university community, and the other fraternities at the university."



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SUPPLIED/THE MANITOBA

U of M support staff vote for strike mandate, negotiations continue

CHUTHAN PONNAMPALAM
The Manitoban (University of Manitoba)

WINNIPEG (CUP) — The University of Manitoba could be faced with its second strike in just over three years if the support staff and the administration cannot reach an agreement.

Currently there are about 450 support staff workers employed by the university — which includes personnel in areas such as caretaking, maintenance, engineering and food services — who are represented by the Canadian Auto Workers Local 3007. They have been without a contract since October 2010.

On January 13, 87 per cent voted in favour of giving the union a strike mandate, if negotiations failed.

Frank Wright, current Local 3007 chair, refused to comment on what

parts of the collective agreement the support staff wanted amended.

Leah Janzen, the university's communications manager, confirmed that negotiations were taking place and had been ongoing since the collective agreement expired.

Janzen said that more meetings were scheduled and into February.

"We're confident that these meetings will bear fruit and an agreement will be reached [...] we're hopeful and confident that sitting together at the table will address any concerns on both sides and there won't be a labour issue," said Janzen.

She explained that contingency plans are in place to ensure the continuation of university activity during any labour dispute, but declined to comment on the specifics of these plans.

"Classes would continue, and we

would expect day-to-day operations to be relatively unaffected," said Janzen.

In October 2007, the support staff went on strike for more than a week, when their contract expired and negotiations with the university became deadlocked.

Noel Rautert, a current education student who was around during the October 2007 strike, said that the experience was tolerable.

"To be honest, it wasn't really that bad. I mean, there was excessive garbage around campus, and it was a little bit dirtier, but it wasn't unbearable if you were only coming for class and then leaving," Rautert said.

However, snow removal could be affected this year due to the timing of a potential strike, which Rautert said could give the strike a bigger effect than the 2007 strike.

Perfectionism hurts students: study

TOREY ELLIS
The Dalhousie Gazette
(Dalhousie University)

HALIFAX (CUP) — A psychology professor at Dalhousie University has found that perfectionism may be doing some people more harm than good.

"It's an ugly situation, where you're striving for more but achieving less," said Simon Sherry, one of the authors of a new study on perfectionism in the academic world.

Sherry and his colleagues surveyed approximately 1,300 professors from psychology programs throughout North America. The study suggests professors with high levels of perfectionism tend to produce less research, and the research that is produced is published in less prestigious journals. Though professors were used, Sherry says the findings can be applied to students as well.

"What do we know about perfectionism in academia? It's associated with writer's block, public speaking anxiety, fear of failure, fear of success, statistics anxiety, and a range of academic problems," Sherry said. All of these, he says, are traits students can relate to.

Sean Mackinnon, a doctorate student studying under Sherry, says that the first year transitioning into university is the most emotional.

"The university environment, unfortunately, is one that really pulls for perfectionism. Because theoretically, you can do perfect," he said. "Realistically, nobody can get 100 per cent."

"Other parts of perfectionism are people evaluating you and having really high standards for you, and sometimes in a university environment, that's not all in your head. People are really doing it."

"For the perfectionistic person, [negative] feedback likely gets framed in terms of a failure, which can be the take-off point for problems in young people."

SIMON SHERRY
PSYCHOLOGY PROFESSOR,
DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

But David Mensink, a psychologist at Dalhousie's counselling centre, disagrees with the idea that perfectionism could be bad.

"I don't think you can over-strive," he said. "What I would say is

problematic is the response to not doing things perfectly."

Mensink says the top three issues that students bring to him are anxiety, depression, and relationship problems. He also runs a group for students with eating disorders. All are dysfunctions that Sherry believes result from perfectionist thinking.

"For the perfectionistic person, [negative] feedback likely gets framed in terms of a failure, which can be the take-off point for problems in young people. Depression, anxiety, disordered eating, that sort of thing," Sherry said.

"Perfectionists also often view other people not as collaborators but as competitors," he said. "We know that perfectionism results in a number of relationship difficulties."

Mensink believes "perfectionism" is the wrong word. He says that the self-defeating behaviours Sherry mentions are the result of what he calls "distorted thinking."

In terms of the self-defeating behaviours that Mackinnon and Sherry believe perfectionist thinking creates, Mensink argues that that mindset can also be the cure.

"Say someone has anorexia — so how can they have a more perfect relationship with their food? That's what I want to get at," he said. "Perfectionism is a good thing."

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA 2011 STUDENTS' UNION ELECTIONS



POLL CAPTAIN

Assist the Chief Returning Officer with preparatory work for the March elections. Applicants must be available to work during the campaigning period (February 28th – March 8th) & actual voting days (March 9-10 & March 24-25).
WAGE: \$10/hour
Paid one-hour training session
APPLICATION DEADLINE: February 7 2011

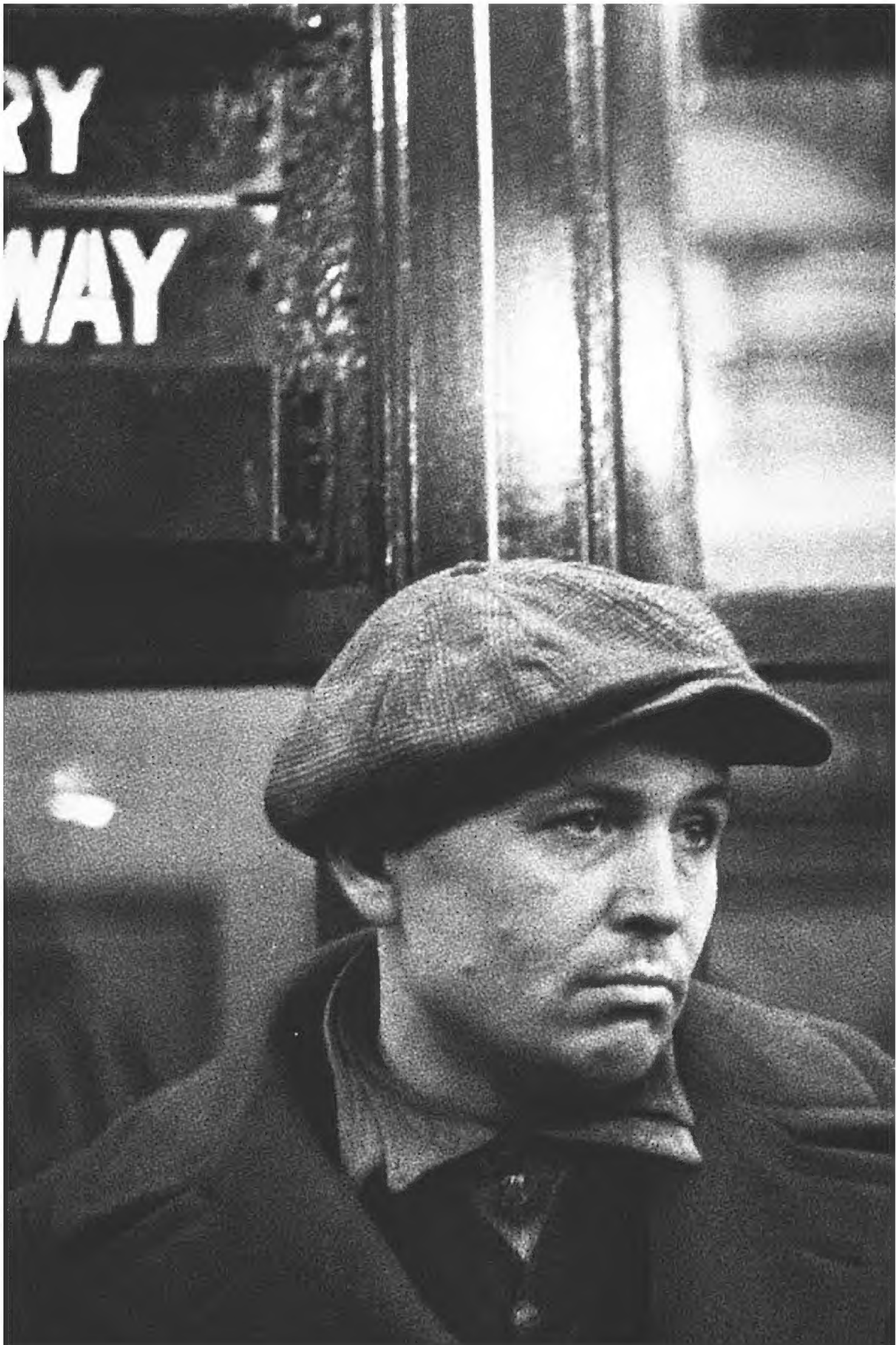
POLL CLERK

Work part-time during the Students' Union Executive & BoG election (March 9-10) & the Students' Council & GFC election (March 24-25) to facilitate voting at polling stations.
WAGE: \$9/hour
Paid one-hour training session
APPLICATION DEADLINE: February 18 2011

PLEASE NOTE: both positions are expected to remain strictly impartial throughout the election campaign & days of voting.



WWW.SU.UALBERTA.CA/VOTE



"Stare, pry, listen, eavesdrop. Die knowing something. You are not here long." — Walker Evans

GATEWAY PHOTO

Creeping on strangers since 1910

Photo meetings are Fridays at 4 p.m. on the third floor of SUB, and most definitely not in a bush somewhere on campus.

DKE International lets frat off the hook

THE FIVE YEAR SUSPENSION HANDED DOWN LAST week to the Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity by the university for hazing activities has already been criticized by many as a slap on the wrist. And it's true — it's not much of a punishment, considering the damage group's actions have done to the university's image.

In actuality, the university has very little jurisdiction over what they can do in a case like this, and if they had grounds to charge individuals under the Code of Student Conduct, there's no clear reason why they wouldn't have. The real fault here lies with DKE International.

The international body that governs the fraternity holds all the cards in terms of sending a message to individual chapters or individual fraternity members. In that aspect, DKE International failed miserably. The three-year provisional suspension they handed the Delta Phi chapter in December is the actual slap on the wrist in this case, when the international organization had the power to shut down the chapter, or impose sanctions that weren't completely meaningless.

Instead, as part of their "Action Plan," a council of local alumni will oversee the chapter's activities, despite their acknowledgement that alumni were involved in hazing. How, then, does anyone know the people "overseeing" them aren't the exact same people who were perpetuating the problem last year? As well, the chapter is still allowed to undergo their 2011 initiations, though they'll require participants to sign a letter saying they'll abide by DKE International's risk management guidelines. Because if there's one thing that ensures people follow the rules, it's signing your name to a piece of paper.

Other international fraternity organizations have closed chapters in North America for far less than the Delta Phi, or U of A, chapter was accused of doing, as they recognize the damage that such activities do to their image. Given DKE International's pathetic response, it seems they have no such concerns, which gives little hope for any useful change.

As for the local chapter, the fact that they fessed up to hazing on their website was a welcome surprise. But it's easy to apologize to the U of A, the university community, and the other fraternities and sororities on campus in a prepared statement posted online. Their actions in the next several years will be what really matters. This incident has undoubtedly hurt the reputation of the entire Greek system on campus. The Dekes were essentially given another chance, and helping the larger community mend its image would go a long way to taking responsibility for themselves. But whether they actually do so is up to them, and the prospects don't exactly look promising.

JOHN KMECH
Editor-in-Chief

Change in the Middle East? Not quite yet

The protests in Tunisia at the beginning of January that ousted president Zine el Abidine Ben Ali were an isolated case of internal discontent. Egypt is another one of these isolated cases, where internal pressures are finally reaching a boiling point. But these isolated incidents are starting to add up.

Every time you turn on the TV or check the internet, more Egyptians are taking to the street and more foreign politicians have commented on the protests.

This is after the demonstrations in Tunisia turned into popular revolt, and there have even been protests in Yemen, a country riven by two internal conflicts. But this could be the end of the line for popular revolutions in the Middle East, at least for now.

Other countries in the region are less likely to take such a light stance had if their people decide they've had enough. A popular protest in the Syrian city of Hama was put down in 1982 by brute force, killing as many as 20,000 people. And the Saudi ruling family doesn't appear as though they'll loosen their grip anytime soon. Events in Egypt don't portend the coming of the "Arab Spring" that so many have been looking for, at least not for the entire region. But it's definitely a step in the right direction — finally allowing the people to be heard.

JUSTIN BELL
Managing Editor



ROSS VINCENT

letters TO THE eds

Dekes' suspension an unfunny joke

RE: ("University suspends DKE fraternity for five years," Alexandria Eldridge, January 27)

I am disgusted that the U of A has basically given the Dekes a slap for show for the press that is watching and nothing more. Thursday it was announced that they are suspended for five years from being a recognized group, yet their website still identifies the association with the U of A in their URL. They are either suspended or they are not. As well, go around the house and nothing has stopped. They are still meeting, it appears they are conducting their normal functions under cloak now. The suspension is a joke.

LINDA SMITH
Arts Alumnus

A little more information about coffee

RE: ("Hot Beans," Moly Milosovic, January 20)

Moly Milosovic's "Hot Beans" was a great introduction to the complex and ever-changing world of specialty coffee. However, there were a few misleading comments/statements in the article that I

wanted to address.

There are two main coffee species: arabica and robusta — the article referred to the latter as "robust." While arabica produces a higher quality cup, the resulting flavour notes depend on how the coffee cherries were picked, washed, dried, sorted, shipped, and finally, roasted. Using specific words like "smoother" to describe arabica is misleading. For example, an arabica from Ethiopia's Yirgacheffe region produces more citrus and berry acidity — certainly not more "smooth" than an arabica from Brazil's Cerrado region, which many expert coffee cuppers would describe as nutty, balanced, and smooth.

A lot more goes into "cupping" than is presented in the article. I won't go into the details, but the method must be precise, so that the coffee can be evaluated as objectively as possible. Coffee weight, water weight, water temperature, grind size, and steep time are all important factors. In addition, cuppers evaluate the aroma of the "crust" as well as the aroma produced when that crust is broken (then skimmed, which the article doesn't mention). The roasting process, too, is more complex than simply changing temperatures at various points during roast. The point is: there are a lot of steps after receiving the shipment of coffee and prior to coffee extraction that require a skill set that is both technical and based on a lot of trial-and-error (as well as training from more experienced roasters). The article does allude to this but, unfortunately,

doesn't present just how much skill and knowledge is required to execute a good cup of coffee.

In addition, I always hesitate using phrases like "the 'perfect' cup of coffee is prepared by doing x, y, and z." The truth of the matter is, a great cup of coffee can be brewed in many different ways and by using varying parameters for each method, as determined by the brewer. What makes specialty coffee "special" is the industry-wide push for more experimentation, more debate about quality, never accepting that what you know is the be-all-and-end-all.

MELANIE LEESON
Arts Alumnus

from THE web

Gateway bores reader by following the story

RE: ("University suspends DKE fraternity for five years," Alexandria Eldridge, January 27)

Wow, is this another front page story about basically the same thing? Alexandria, all you're doing is rewording the same article over and over again, clearly trying to cling to your last 15 minutes of fame. Maybe next week the headline will read "DKE Fraternity suspended for 60 months." I wouldn't be surprised.

"MIKE B"
Via Internet

This just in: campus newspaper reports news

RE: ("University suspends DKE fraternity for five years," Alexandria Eldridge, January 27)

A site for the campus newspaper, updating a story that is very hot on campus? Goodness! What is this world coming to, when the media updates itself? Let's move to Egypt so we don't have to worry about the media at all.

"JOEJOEBOB"
Via Internet

Dekes deserve harsher punishment

RE: ("University suspends DKE fraternity for five years," Alexandria Eldridge, January 27)

Just a slap on the wrist. The university had a chance to make a statement here and fell through. Removing a group's status means nothing, as anyone who was at Antifreeze could attest. DKEs are still proud to wear their letters, and barring any punishment against individuals who perpetrated these acts, I'm disappointed in their decision to say the least.

"ANON"
Via Internet

Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca. Letters should be no longer than 400 words, and should include the author's name, program, and year of study.

Geer week anything but Bohring



BEN
NAY

I'm sure we've all heard Grantland Rice's famous quote at some point in our childhood: "It's not if you win or lose, but how you play the game." Your mother probably recited it to you shortly after the 42-0 ass-whooping of your minor league soccer team. It's certainly a nice sentiment, but in the also-immortal words of Gene Autry, former owner of the Anaheim Angels, "Grantland Rice can go to hell as far as I'm concerned."

In light of recent events on the engineering side of campus, I share in this sentiment. Yes, Geer Week was one hell of a fun time for all involved, and yes, there was plenty of good-spirited competition and camaraderie that resulted in a warm fuzzy feeling akin to swallowing a kitten (actually the result of consuming enough alcohol to sedate Michael Moore). At the end of the day, most of the engineering disciplines played a good game, and I applaud them. Still, what *really* matters is that they lost, and we won.

By "we," I am of course referring to the Engineering Physicists. Suffice to say that if Chuck Norris, Albert Einstein, and Captain Morgan were to somehow get stuffed into a BlendTec blender, the resulting smoothie would not only be delicious and marginally

nutritious, but it would be the essence of Eng Phys.

Think of the story of 300 Spartans standing up to the Persian army. Our Geer Week victory was like that, but better. In a faculty of more than 3,000 students, one department of barely 75 stood up to adversity and the constant threat of invasion.

You steal our slinky and we will fuck you up. We love that slinky more than we love your mother, and we *really* love your mother.

Handicapped by the requirement that a female must be present for most events, the underdog Eng Phys. team and their six leading ladies somehow beat the odds and rammed a *Twilight* themed dildo into the metaphorical eye socket of the Mining Engineers', spewing blood and beer all over their hopes of repeating as champions.

This magnanimous conquest, the first ever in the history of Engineering Physics, was not achieved in the traditional manner, as one would expect. Apparently constructing additional pylons in *Starcraft* does not count as real exercise, and so there were no first-place trophies for feats of physical strength. Rather, this one was ground out of sheer willpower, determination, and an art form that we call "fucking with the other guys."

You see, nothing can compare to the satisfaction of hearing "You're dead to us, Eng Phys!" echoing out

of the Electrical Engineers' club in the morning. Admittedly, they had a right to be a tad miffed. The dynamic duo of Computer Engineering and Eng Phys may have been a bit responsible for the complete reversal of gravity in their office (think upside-down filing cabinets) — but they should have made sure their office was space-time invariant. Rookie mistake. The First Year Engineers' club room suffered the same fate, but that was for an entirely different reason. You steal our slinky and we will fuck you up. We love that slinky more than we love your mother, and we *really* love your mother.

At the end of the week, with the dust, blood and beer still settling, a group of mythical warriors were the only ones left standing — the Eng Phys. team. Though most were covered in condoms, as every Trojan warrior surely was, that did not detract from a moment that can only be described as epic. Picture the sun slowly setting in the background, illuminating the outline of the grand edifices of our corner of campus; a single flag held high above all else as the hung-over groans of the other disciplines are silenced by a sudden roar — the unified voices of the Eng Phys bellowing loudly and proudly, "Na-na-na-na-na! We won! You suck!"

Yes, it truly was a moment worthy of cinematic reproduction; one which will surely go down in the memories, and perhaps nightmares, of engineers for a long, long time.

Now if you'll all excuse me, there's a trophy that needs drinking out of, and I don't want to disappoint.

Healthy resolutions not *quite* forgotten



MIMI
FATMI

"One glance around SUB at noon during midterm season is all it takes to realize most of us have an extremely unhealthy relationship with our food. If we're not eating our way through our miseries with comfort foods of the fried variety, we're living off caffeine and carbohydrates to keep us awake."

With January over, now to be remembered only as yet another snowy and slushy month, exercise is the last thing on any student's mind. After all, it's been 32 days since we made those promises to run five miles a day, to do at least 300 crunches three times a week, all while keeping our caloric intake below 1500 — oh, and don't forget those vows to swear off fries for the rest of our lives. Totally realistic goals, aren't they? Now I'm just waiting here super patiently for my six-pack to show up already.

The reality is that nobody sticks to health resolutions, but we continue to make them because we all know our bodies could use the improvement. This doesn't include merely the kind of improvement that's measured in pounds and inches, but the overarching appreciative response your body gives you when you've been good to it. All the studies and statistics making the news recently are telling us that we're heading into the obesity territory we'd much rather associate with our neighbours to the south, but nobody seems to remember that exercise can be for healthy people. It can be for students. And shockingly, it can even be fun.

In case you somehow haven't heard, the Public Health Agency of Canada recommends at least 30 minutes of

moderate to intense aerobic activity five days a week for adults 18 and over. This can reduce your risk of cardiovascular disease, stroke, diabetes, and hypertension; it also makes a claim to improve mental health. I'm sure all of that sounds fine and dandy to you, but how can anybody expect university students — surely the busiest of all people who've ever existed — to give up 30 minutes every day? It's actually a lot easier than it sounds. Even as a full-time student who works, volunteers, and contributes a lot of time to my household, I managed to find a spare 30 minutes in my busy schedule. I now delve into my morning sleep time and go for a run before classes; it gets me energized for the day ahead and the lost sleep has me going to bed at an earlier and more regular time. Still, I understand that the majority of students are not self-proclaimed morning people, so it really is up to you to find what works.

The sadly underestimated second half of the equation is eating better, and this also is a lot less daunting than most people think — so long as you're smart in your goal-setting. It's pointless to tell yourself you won't ever eat another slice of pizza when you know that student group you just joined is holding its winter term welcome-back party with — lo and behold — free pizza. But as long

as you look at foods like that as an indulgence, and try to refrain from another free slice for the rest of the week, you've probably succeeded at that concept that seems to be the secret to everything: moderation.

One glance around SUB at noon during midterm season is all it takes to realize most of us have an extremely unhealthy relationship with our food. If we're not eating our way through our miseries with comfort foods of the fried variety, we're living off caffeine and carbohydrates to keep us awake. And if it's not sugar highs we're craving, it's the company of others for which a plate of wings or onion rings is the only social lubricant. All too often, people gorge themselves on food they don't even taste, just because potato chips and an extra-whip frappuccino have become the go-to snack after a poorly written midterm.

There is really only one foolproof way to lose weight and get fit, and that is to stop intending to lose weight and actually get fit. If you concentrate on changing your entire approach to just being better to yourself, you might just find yourself avoiding foods your body doesn't appreciate and taking the stairs up from the LRT. Maybe a large-scale change in attitude will finally have us realizing that exercise isn't just for fat people.

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Harsha Walia, No One Is Illegal;
Dr. Anna Kirova, Faculty of Education



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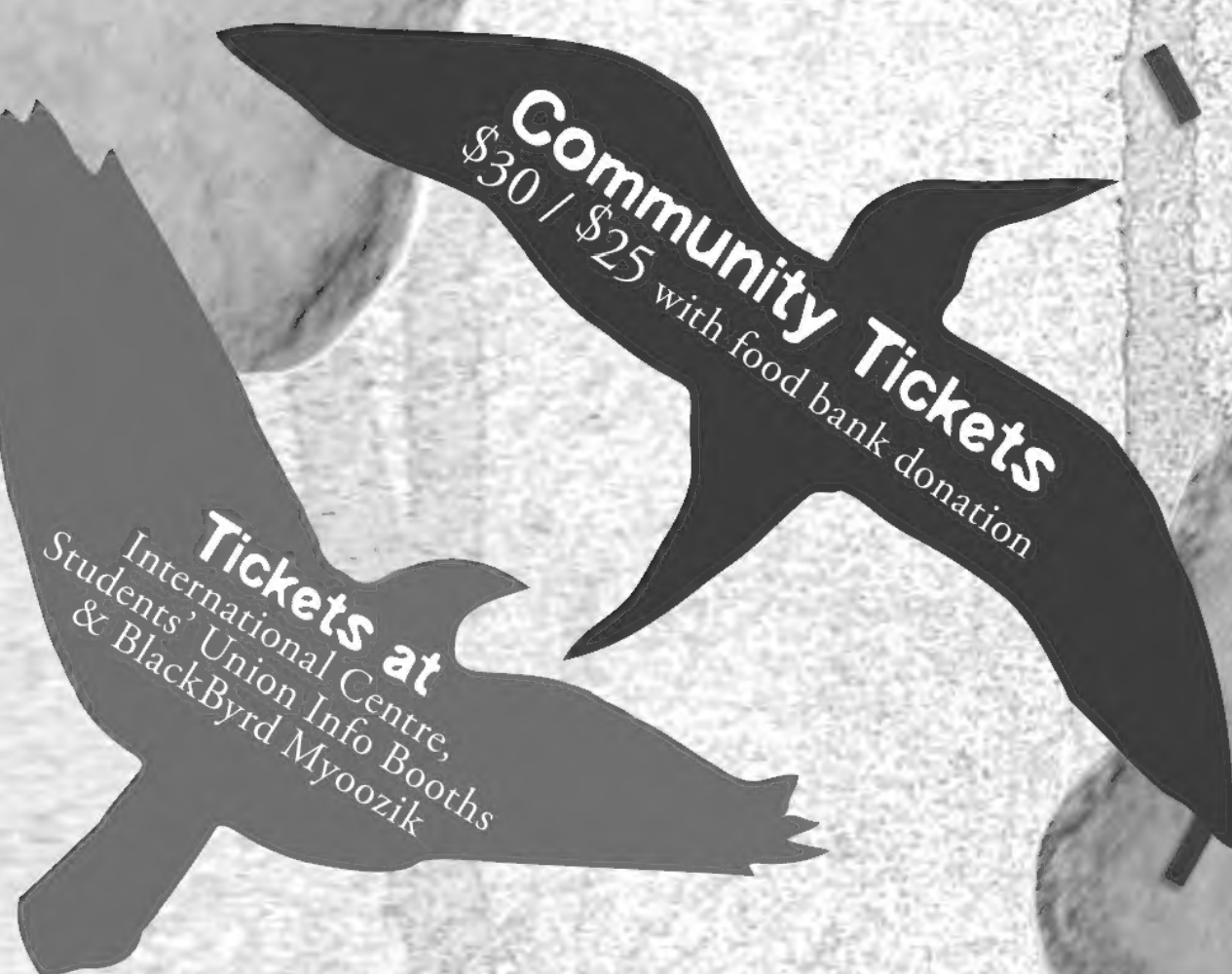
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dance

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Real-life supervillain claims ownership of the Sun



DUSTIN
BANKS

149,600,000 kilometres.”

I’m calling it: Angeles Duran is a supervillain.

“So what?” you ask, as that adorable look of confused naiveté you get whenever you think about the world outside of SUB makes its way across your face again. “Why should we care?” I’ll tell you why — because she wants your money.

Well it’s official. Somebody owns the sun. Her name is Angeles Duran. She’s a 49-year-old woman from Spain. And she owns the sun. All of it. She would also like you to pay for using it.

You see, in 1967, the United Nations signed “The Outer Space Treaty.” In addition to declaring that the moon may be used only for peaceful purposes — making this the coolest thing the UN has ever accomplished — it also states that “outer space is not subject to national appropriation by claim of sovereignty, by means of use or occupation, or by any other means.”

What all that legalistic jargon means is that countries can’t own bits of space. Duran, who is not a country, registered the star at a local notary, which has declared her to be the “owner of the Sun, a star of spectral type G2, located in the centre of the solar system, located at an average distance from Earth of about

Lux has proven that she’s serious. Sunburns, skin cancer, global warming, the melting ice caps — and she hasn’t even made a demand yet.

Ms. Duran, who, lacking a good supervillain name of her own, will from this point on be dubbed Mistress Lux, will charge a fee for the Sun. Every man, woman, and child will apparently pay for the sun they use, much like the new CoSSS fee but even less personally inconvenient.

Half of the proceeds will be given to the Spanish government, 30 per cent allocated towards the Spanish pension fund and eradication of

world hunger, and the remainder will be kept by herself, or used for “research.” Witnesses would not confirm if she broke into a fit of maniacal cackling following this pronouncement, so we can only assume this is the case.

And don’t even think about not paying. I know you were considering how many plates of RATT sweet potato fries you could get with your sun money. Because if one thing is for certain, Lux has proven that she’s serious. Sunburns, skin cancer, global warming, the melting ice caps — and she hasn’t even made a demand yet. She has yet to reveal how much she plans to charge for this sun tax.

But it gets worse. There’s a countdown over our heads. Experts have determined that the sun is rigged to blow if Lux’s demands aren’t met, in little over five billion years.

Scientists have long predicted this blowout, but now we know who is holding the trigger — a deranged Spanish woman with a hate-on for polar bears.

So really, we’re pretty much screwed. The only thing we can do is hope that Gore’s “Inconvenient Truth” is that he has a black belt and a PhD in kicking ass.



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COOL GETTING COLDER

The first annual *Freezing Man Festival* in photos by Julianna Damer and Aaron Yeo

K-OS

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Jason Statham's latest flick could use a tune-up



filmreview

The Mechanic

Directed by Simon West
Starring Jason Statham, Ben Foster,
and Donald Sutherland
Now Playing

STEPHEN COOK
Arts & Entertainment Writer

The Mechanic is not the perfect Jason Statham film. The perfect Jason Statham film is one in which Jason Statham, badass professional of some kind of high octane (possibly illegal) trade, must fight with Jason Statham clones in a series of increasingly batshit-loco battles involving one of or all of the following: cars, trains, machine guns, skyscrapers, and racial stereotypes. The final boss battle will

be with Jason Statham's evil twin brother, Jason Statham. Additionally, the female love interest is somehow also Jason Statham (in a wig, maybe). Plot is optional.

The first problem with *The Mechanic* is that Statham is not the sole star. He has a punk-ass sidekick in the form of Ben Foster who spends most of the film brooding because his father just died. Very Shakespeare, though not really that compelling. At least Hamlet had soliloquies; Foster just gets piss-drunk and beats people up. Even the heroic flaw of Statham's character leaves little to be desired. He's a loner, spelled out in some not-so-subtle dialogue by his aging handler.

Then again, Statham's character is a *hitman* so I'm not sure what exactly the old man wants. Maybe a hug? Seems like a lot of people in this film could have used a hug.

This failed attempt at emotional depth does not necessitate a fatal failure, seeing as the film is billed as an action movie. Too bad it doesn't do a very good job at being that, either.

Here's the thing, though: the film, like its main character, is just an unfeeling mess. It does its job and little else. Statham and Foster get a target to take out via online classifieds (listed as Wanted: Mechanic), there's a little back-story showing what a bad dude the target is, and then they get on with killing him. Rinse and

repeat, with slightly varying results. Some people get killed but nothing really changes. Foster stays a brooding mess, Statham is still a recluse, and the world goes on.

But wait — doesn't Statham and Foster's partnership indicate "character development" between their respective personalities? No, not really.

It ends up being a bit of a tease — Statham's character seems poised to make a concerted effort to be a real person with relationships, even engaging in a quickly forgotten subplot with a New Orleans prostitute. But in the end — nope, not happening. As for Foster, he just ends up as the same angry loner he started out as — although he does manage to laugh once. Watch for it; it's very special. But this failed attempt at emotional depth does not necessitate a fatal failure, seeing as the film is billed as an action movie. Too

bad it doesn't do a very good job at being that, either.

Over the years, Statham has effectively carved himself a niche within the action genre. His films, exemplified by *Death Race*, *Crank 1 & 2*, as well as *The Transporter* series, are stupid, fun, and over-the-top. And by over-the-top, I mean "out of fucking control."

There are multiple moments in his past films wherein one is caught between their instinct telling them to cheer at these high-intensity antics, and their intellect, telling them to loudly cry out against such debasement of logic.

The real problem with *The Mechanic* is that it has none of these moments. Its by-the-numbers action does not have the plot, style, or emotion to back it up. Brutality and gore can only go so far before it becomes something we've seen a dozen times before.



White Lightning stokes the fires of success

musicpreview

White Lightning

With Zerbin
Saturday, February 5 at 8 p.m.
Avenue Theatre (9030-118 Avenue)
\$10 at the door

MADELINE SMITH
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Rock bands have a tendency to be self-aggrandizing when they describe their sound. But Edmonton trio White Lightning are particularly unafraid of proclaiming just how awesome they are. According to the band's website, not only does White Lightning's live show have the power to make you "dance, thrash, and weep," but it may also "inspire fence sitters to be world changers."

"That's just our philosophical one in the band writing that, Enoch [Rottier]," laughs White Lightning frontman Steve Bosch. "We do definitely have deeper meanings in a lot of our songs, and I guess that's where that comes out."

Bosch met Rottier when the drummer began dating Bosch's sister, "stealing" him for his new musical

project when the pair broke up after "a couple weeks." The duo have been making music together for three years, and with the recent addition of Jason Grilo on bass, the three-piece are releasing their first full-length album *See It All* — a project that embodies their other description of themselves: "epic indie rock."

"We started the whole CD with a *Braveheart*-style big anthemic piece with a choir in the background," says Bosch. "Then we did a big *Stomp* jam with trash cans and breaking glass and shooting a shotgun all in sync, making a big percussive jam in one of the songs. We also had a remix contest and the winner got on our album, so the last track is his, and it's awesome; we're so stoked on it. [...] So there are lots of cool elements and stuff we experimented with — I would just love for people to enjoy listening to it as much as I do."

While White Lightning is gaining momentum, the band is also still navigating the challenges of being a relatively young band in Edmonton.

"There's not always a lot of support or interest in new things, like new bands or new music," Bosch says. "It feels like there are way too many posters and not enough people who actually go to shows. [...] When's the last time you just saw a poster

and went, 'Hey, I'm going to check out this new band.' There are so few people that do that in Edmonton."

White Lightning has managed to attract new people to their shows with a focus on creating an extraordinary concert experience. The band always tries to do something original and creative on stage in order to engage the audience, a motto that has earned them a nomination for an Edmonton Music Award in the category of "best live performance" for a show they played at On the Rocks.

"We pulled out lots of antics," Bosch recalls. "We really try to entertain as best we can. [...] So we had 30 people on stage all with instruments we gave them, and they were rocking out in some of our songs. And we wore paintsuits — full-body paintsuits, which was quite awesome."

As for their upcoming album release show, Bosch says the band is ready to debut some new stage shenanigans, but for the time being, they're being kept under wraps.

"It's all secret," he grins. "There's something to do with bananas at the next one, and I can't tell you any more than that."

If White Lightning has anything to do with it, those bananas just might change your world.

A *Dead Space* opera not for the faint of heart

Dead Space 2

Developed by Visceral Games

Published by Electronic Arts

Available on PlayStation 3, Xbox 360, and PC

BRENDAN TRAYNER
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Advertised as a game your mom will hate, the artists and animators from Visceral Games who are behind *Dead Space 2* likely had a blast making the title they probably wanted themselves as teenagers, considering that it's the ultimate indulgence in gore-filled ultra-violence. Every component of the original *Dead Space* has been ratcheted up by the developers to create an extremely memorable, action-packed survival-horror experience.

For those uninitiated into the franchise, the story follows Isaac Clarke, an interstellar engineer extraordinaire battling an alien species that can re-animate dead flesh into grotesque, walking abominations with scythes for arms. Set three years after the events of the first game, we follow Isaac as he not only has to deal with the hordes of mutated walking dead again, but also a gnarly case of alien-induced post-traumatic stress disorder. This time, Isaac can talk, and having him speak substantially improves the storytelling and narrative of the game, especially when exploring the psychosis that poor Isaac is dealing with.

Another improvement are the game's substantially refined graphics. Building off the same game engine as the original, it's obvious that the artists put in a lot more time creating

extremely varied and detailed environments, enemies, and action set pieces that are head-and-shoulders above what was in the first game. True to *Dead Space* fashion, there is an absolute cornucopia of creative and disgusting ways to be sliced and diced, decapitated, impaled, and blown up into meaty chunks, in what were some of my favourite moments of the game. The animators must have had really, really rough childhoods — and I love them for it. I couldn't contain my glee every time Isaac met a horrible demise.

There is an absolute cornucopia of creative and disgusting ways to be sliced and diced, decapitated, impaled, and blown up into meaty chunks.

As for the gameplay, it has been tweaked a little from the original. Very little. Sure, you now get to enjoy the addition of a cool new jetpack-equipped suit that lets you fly around in areas with no gravity. There's also small improvements that only fans of the first game would appreciate, such as the ability to reload as you're running away from hordes of undead babies.

But Visceral Games definitely took an "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" approach to the game on this front, and considering how stellar the original was, they can't be faulted

for not altering much. The addition of multiplayer is welcome, but at the end of the day, I bought the game for the single-player campaign, and in that respect, it definitely didn't disappoint.

A lot of folks have argued that *Dead Space* is "scary," but this simply isn't true. Sure, it's extremely graphic, and yes, there are some moments when a mutated child-corpse jumps out of nowhere to startle you. But never once is there a tangible sense of dread that would make you fear to enter the next area like you do, for example, in a game like *Amnesia: The Dark Descent*.

There are, however, some parts of *Dead Space 2* that are just goddamn stressful, bordering on overwhelming. After clearing a big room of undead jerks, more often than not, there seems to be an entire ass-load more of them just around the corner. I felt this somewhat artificially increased the length of the game — and this was especially true for the end-game sequence. Another gripe is that some areas were obviously cut-and-pasted from earlier parts of the game with few changes. But these are minor complaints. Having to run through similar sequences is acceptable when you get this much blood and viscera on your hands on the way through.

Dead Space 2 is an extremely worthy successor to the original game, as well as an excellent addition to the survival-horror genre. The end-game sequence alone was worth the price of admission. When its time comes, *Dead Space 3* is sure to deliver even more gory horror goodness.



STUDENTS' UNION STRATEGIC PLAN FEEDBACK

This year the Students' Union has rewritten its key guiding document, the Strategic Plan. This paper lays out the organization's Mission, Values & Vision and also sets down its future Strategic Goals & Objectives. Following the Townhall meeting on January 20, we are still looking for feedback from individual students like *you*.

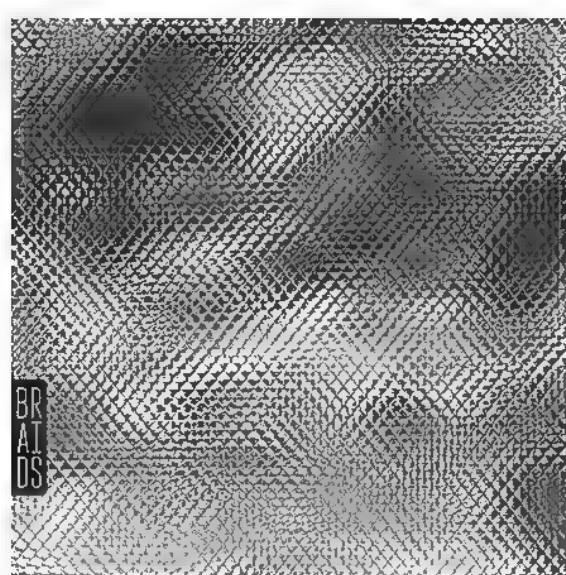
To have *your* say in the direction of the Students' Union please visit www.su.ualberta.ca/strategicplan. Take a look at the draft of the Strategic Plan and leave us your feedback.

We will be accepting all your comments, feedback and suggestions until *Monday, February 7th*.

**FEBRUARY
7TH**

**LAST DAY FOR
FEEDBACK**





albumreview

Braids
Native Speaker
Flemish Eye

BRENDAN FITZGERALD
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Braids' debut release *Native Speaker* is a textural, experimental journey featuring intense vocals and spacey instrumentals.

Lead singer Raphaelle Standell-Preston's strong voice grips the listener like a hand reaching out of the music to alter your state of mind.

The fifth song on the album, "Lammicken," best showcases the vigour of Standell-Preston's voice as she gets progressively louder and more passionate.

Her vocals, however, do not supplant the instrumentals, and they are given their own space to exude their quirk. The origin of the first sounds that come from the album's first track "Lemonade" is up for speculation, but it creates the impression of submersion in a pot of boiling vegetables. The warm, soothing, gurgling sounds lead the album further along its trippy course.

If the members of Braids weren't musicians, these guys would make excellent Foley sound-effect artists — the entire album has a strong hands-on framework and a tangible sense of physicality.

With arrangements that suggest a nod to Animal Collective, the album's synths and eccentric effects create an enveloping sense of calm, surrounding the listener with a sonic experience.

In order to fully appreciate *Native Speaker*, I'd recommend listening to it while rolling around on your bed pretending you have no use of your limbs and dreaming that you're floating in an endless void.



albumreview

Paris Suit Yourself
My Main Shitstain
Big Dada

RYAN BROMSGROVE
Arts & Entertainment Staff

My Main Shitstain is the kind of album that not only doesn't know what it wants to be, but outright scoffs at any misguided attempts to pin it down.

The debut album from Paris Suit Yourself contains some average songs you might expect from any four-piece guitar, bass, and drums band, such as "Rolling On" and "Sometimes," but also the bizarre, highly sex-moan-infused "Surprise." The sheer variety of the record will at least intrigue the unprepared listener.

The instrumentation is enjoyable and accessible, with plenty of neat riffs to keep the attentions of the doubtlessly nonplussed listeners.

Unfortunately, the lead vocalist Luvinsky Atche is hit and miss. He seems determined to bring a completely different style of delivery to each track, which ultimately leaves the record feeling strange, disorganized, and slapped together. Some songs are largely in French, which alone is no problem, but the vocals go from straight singing, to screaming, to bird-like screaming, to snarling, to begging for a blowjob.

The only thing almost holding it together is the back-up vocals, which essentially sound exactly how you'd expect a grown man poorly impersonating the voice of a child to be — and that never sounds right.

It's hard to fairly judge something that plainly doesn't care what you think of it. With a refusal to accomplish any measurable goal, *My Main Shitstain* can only be described as really, really weird.

Lovers of the obscure and unusual may well find the album to be an unusual and fun curiosity, but most will find it deeply confusing, somewhat childish, and perhaps a little threatening.



albumreview

Geoff Berner
Victory Party
Mint Records

ALEX MIGDAL
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Listening to *Victory Party* gives you the feeling of being in the midst of a raucous party where the alcohol is freely flowing and the dancefloor is open for business.

Geoff Berner has crafted an unusual experience with his sixth high-concept album, embracing Eastern European klezmer influences to fascinating and often hilarious effect.

Led by the plucky instrumentation of an accordion, *Victory Party* puts a transgressive twist on Jewish culture, grandly displaying Berner's creativity and comical insight.

By refusing to restrict himself to just one sound, Berner brings added depth to his numerous Eastern European party tunes by infusing childlike playfulness at some points and psychotic punk rock wails the next.

While some of the songs don't exactly warrant repeated listens and occasionally veer into incomprehensible chaos, there's a deft satirical touch to each of them that makes them undeniably charming.

The track "Jail" is a prime example, in which the proclamation "I am going to jail to get a new pair of shoes" is repeated with monotonous and insistent authority.

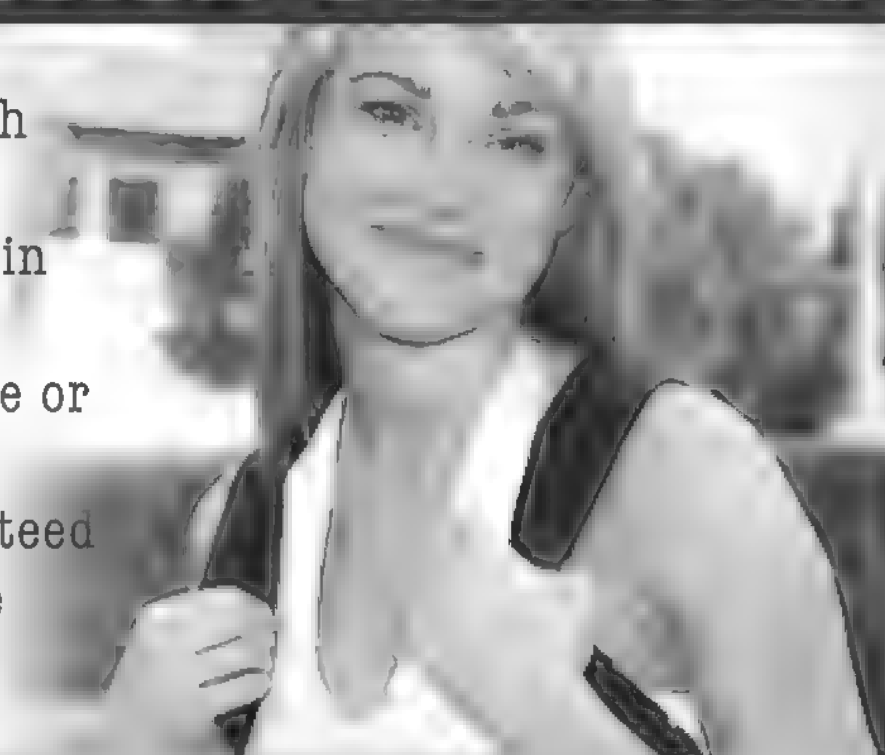
Still, despite the head scratching that may ensue, you can't help but feel that Berner is in on the joke.

If *Victory Party*'s aim is to be taken seriously as meaningful music, then it fails.

Judging on his past albums, however, this doesn't seem to be Berner's *modus operandi*. As a result, his self-deprecating gusto makes this album into a party well worth attending.

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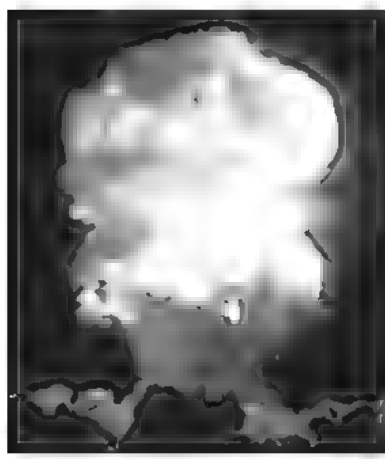
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The bands that should go away

Gateway A&E laments the longevity of groups that have overstayed their welcome



A&E
STAFF

Group
Commentary

Whether it's a boy band reuniting for yet another money-grabbing world tour or a hair metal outfit that just can't let go of the glory of their 1980s success, some groups just don't know when to call it a day. If only these bands had done the world a favour and quit while they were ahead. Instead, we're giving these musical dinosaurs the official Gateway seal of disapproval.

Alex Migdal

Backstreet's back ... again? Taking their '90s hit just a little too much to heart, the Backstreet Boys narrowly survived the near-extinction of the washed-out boy-band species brought on by the new millennium. Since then, they've been wooing the hearts of pre-pubescent girls across the world, leaving the rest of us gagging.

Rather than taking a cue from their fellow boy band NSync and disbanding at the height of their careers, this five-piece assemblage thought it necessary to release an album in 2005, which barely made a blip on the charts compared to their past stratospheric successes. Refusing to take a hint, the Backstreet Boys unleashed two additional albums sans their fifth member Kevin Richardson.

The Backstreet Boys also love touring incessantly and have made it an annual tradition to visit Edmonton, which only makes for the nauseating experience of having to scroll through countless concert photos and statuses posted on Facebook by girls who refuse to relinquish their teenybopper fantasies.

All of this is made more disturbing by the fact that these "boys" are, in fact, nearing the age of 40. That's right, parents — your tween girls are being seduced by men who may already be afflicted by osteoporosis.

Dulguun Bayasgalan

I had as much frustration writing this article as I have contemplating the idea of listening to Bon Jovi. I could never, for some unforgivable reason, take them very seriously as a rock band, or even just as musicians for that matter. Apparently, over the course of their 25-year career, they've sold more than a hundred million

records and gone on all these crazy sold-out tours, which has to mean something, right? They are undoubtedly an immensely successful act.

But every time they come back with another hit song or get a new haircut that MTV crawls all over, I can only marvel at their incessant refusal to lay down their hard-rock-soft-rock-but-sometimes-country torch.

Arguably, the band embodies some sense of continuity with the past, but it feels as though their ongoing longevity is smearing their mark in rock 'n' roll history rather than redefining it with something different and fresh — something that their reputation and history simply wouldn't allow. Bon Jovi has said and done quite enough, and sits well in the realm of the outdated.

Carole Yue

Coldplay: the plebeian's band of choice when it comes to showing those on their social network just how deep, sensitive, and culturally savvy they really are. See for yourself how many people have joined Coldplay's Facebook page. Of course, this isn't to say the group doesn't produce quality music. On the contrary, songs such as "Viva la Vida" manage an impressive feat, marrying politically and religiously charged lyrics with a classical arrangement.

However, the problem with Coldplay is that to describe them, one must always use another band as a reference. Radiohead without the edge. Muse with more pop. And when Chris Martin still sounds like someone who would name their daughter "Apple," even after a decade of performing, his fluffy style has officially gotten old.

After all, there's a limit to how long a band can run on borrowed sounds from other groups. Quit while you're ahead, Coldplay. Longevity is overrated, especially when it comes to the music industry. Turn your hand to worthier endeavours, like saving the rainforests and investing in writing books for your spawn like all the other celebrities.

Dustin Blumhagen

Whether you are aware of it or not, legendary American punk band The Misfits have invaded your consciousness. Possibly the only band on the planet who have out-merchandised Gene Simmons' Kiss, The Misfits skull face has been seen everywhere, from stained sleazy strip club panties to decidedly un-punk rock t-shirts in Stereos' press photos. But before the band was reduced to the sad

caricature that they are today, they were one of the forerunners of the infamous '77 punk scene.

Jerry Only and Glenn Danzig formed the backbone of the original horror punk band, which blended 1950s rockabilly, metal, and a love for B-movies to create a truly influential sound. But a mere six years after their formation, Danzig and Only had an irreparable falling out, months before the release of their final album.

Sadly, after years of legal battles, Only won the right to tour as The Misfits in 1995, which led to two new releases. Recently, Only's embarrassing touring version of the band consists of him and two senior citizens who used to play in Black Flag.

While he parades around the stage like a cartoon wrestler, the guitarist and drummer play the classic songs at double speed with half the talent. After multiple decades in the music industry, it really is time to stop abusing the memory and cashing in at the expense of the original Misfits.

Gavin Bradley

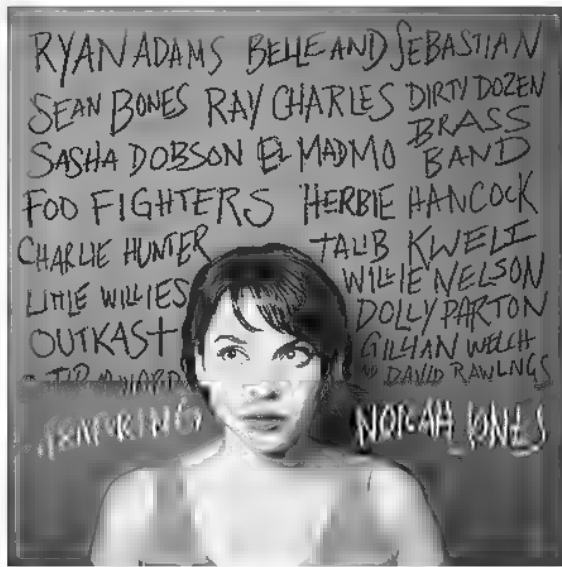
After one of the most over-extended "extended breaks" in the world of music, the news that The Strokes were once again hitting the studio to record new material was met with an initial wave of excitement. Eventually though, as a string of hormonal dramas with various producers continuously pushed back the release date of their first album since 2005's humdrum *First Impressions of Earth*, that wave diminished to a trickle.

The band that started a generation of skinny-jeaned teens stomping around in their Converse high-tops and swishing their dangerously large bangs from side to side seem to have remained stuck in the sort of mediocrity that have plagued them since the mid-2000s.

The Strokes' reunion so far has only managed to produce a number of flat performances at last summer's European festivals in which the most interesting on-stage relationship seemed to be between singer Julian Casablancas and his sunglasses.

For a band whose main appeal was a youthful Ramones-esque vigour (complete with leather jackets and cigarettes, to better tear down society with), the six-year soul-searching hiatus will have done little to raise hopes for their upcoming *Angles* record, set to be released in March.

With a string of summer festival performances lined up, it's hard to shake the feeling that the time has come for these New Yorkers to perhaps turn to different strokes.



albumreview

Norah Jones

...Featuring
Blue Note Records

VANESSA LANCASTER
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Norah Jones' ...Featuring may be a new release, but it is really a summation of her collaborations and side projects during her career. With a few songs from as long ago as 2001, and other partnerships reaching into the new decade, the album spans more than 10 years of the songstress' career.

The album's collaborations are

incredibly varied, from the Foo Fighters to Q-Tip and Herbie Hancock, all held together by the constant foundation of Jones' jazz roots.

The organization of the album also helps its progression, gently shifting between styles. The result is the same Norah Jones sound that fans know and love: mellow jazz tunes that are easy on the ears and heart.

A major highlight of the album is "Take Off Your Cool," Jones' partnership with Andre 3000, one half of hip-hop supergroup Outkast. Although the song is short, at just over two minutes, the combination of the simplicity of Jones' voice with the sultry croon of Andre 3000 creates a smooth, cool sound that becomes a true standout on the album.

...Featuring is ultimately predictable, yet still compelling, as both Jones and her collaborators shine while they combine their considerable talents. Loyal Jones fans will appreciate having all her collaborations in one place, and new fans may find Jones provides a surprisingly refreshing take on old favourites.



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BEARS
BASKETBALL

FRIDAY, JANUARY 28



99



80

	1	2	F
Alberta	60	39	99
Winnipeg	40	40	80

Game Leaders

Points	39 (Daniel Ferguson - AB)
Assists	6 (Jordan Baker - AB)
Rebounds (Def)	13 (Jordan Baker - AB)
Rebounds (Off)	2 (Lyndon Taylor - AB)
Three Pointers	7 (Daniel Ferguson - AB)
Steals	3 (Jordan Baker - AB)
Turnovers	3 (T. Bergen-Henengouwen - AB)
Minutes	34 (L. Drayton-Barrow - WIN)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 29



83



49

	1	2	F
Alberta	40	43	83
Winnipeg	27	22	49

Game Leaders

Points	24 (Jordan Baker - AB)
Assists	6 (Jordan Baker - AB)
Rebounds (Def)	17 (Jordan Baker - AB)
Rebounds (Off)	7 (Jordan Baker - AB)
Three Pointers	2 (Jordan Baker - AB)
Steals	3 (Craig Sharpe - WIN)
Turnovers	4 (Craig Sharpe - WIN)
Minutes	34 (Daniel Ferguson - AB)



Canada West Standings

	GP	W	L	Streak
UBC	18	16	2	W12
TWU	20	17	3	L1
Saskatchewan	18	14	4	W1
Alberta	20	14	6	W5
Regina	18	12	6	W4
Victoria	20	13	7	W6
Manitoba	18	9	9	W2

Bears stand firm against Wesmen

basketball
roundup

Bears vs. Winnipeg
Wesmen

MATT HIRJI
Sports Editor

A pair of hot hands may have secured a spot for the Court Bears in the playoffs, but it was the defensive tenacity of the Green and Gold that allowed them to wipe the floor with the Winnipeg Wesmen in the Main Gym this weekend.

Second-year guard Jordan Baker and team captain Daniel Ferguson combined for 107 points during the Bears two-game sweep of the Wesmen. But what really impressed Bears head coach Greg Francis was his squad's improvement on defence. Holding the offensive-minded Wesmen to just 49 points on Saturday evening, the Bears were able to perfect another aspect of their continually improving game in their drive to the playoffs.

"That was a monster performance," Bears head coach Greg Francis said Saturday evening. "It was one of the things I didn't feel good about [on Friday]. For the guys to bounce back and get better each quarter — wow, just wow."

A key to the Bears' defensive success last weekend was the outstanding performance of Baker, who hauled in 24 rebounds on Saturday — the second-highest single game total posted by any player in the Canada West this season — while pestering the Wesmen into committing 17 turnovers, and netting 31 points on his own.

"How many other point guards in the country can get 24 rebounds?" Francis asked, applauding his young guard's persistence and tenacity to chase down missed shots. "For him the sky's the limit. I don't want to put him in a box, but at the same time, I don't want to ever let my expectations of him get in the way. He can do it against the best in the country and that's what we strive for here. When he's possessed like that, you just want to let him roll with it. I don't know what his limits are, and I like that."

However, Baker is quick to deflect the glory, offering praise to his teammates, who he asserts put in the grunt work that allows the squad's successes.

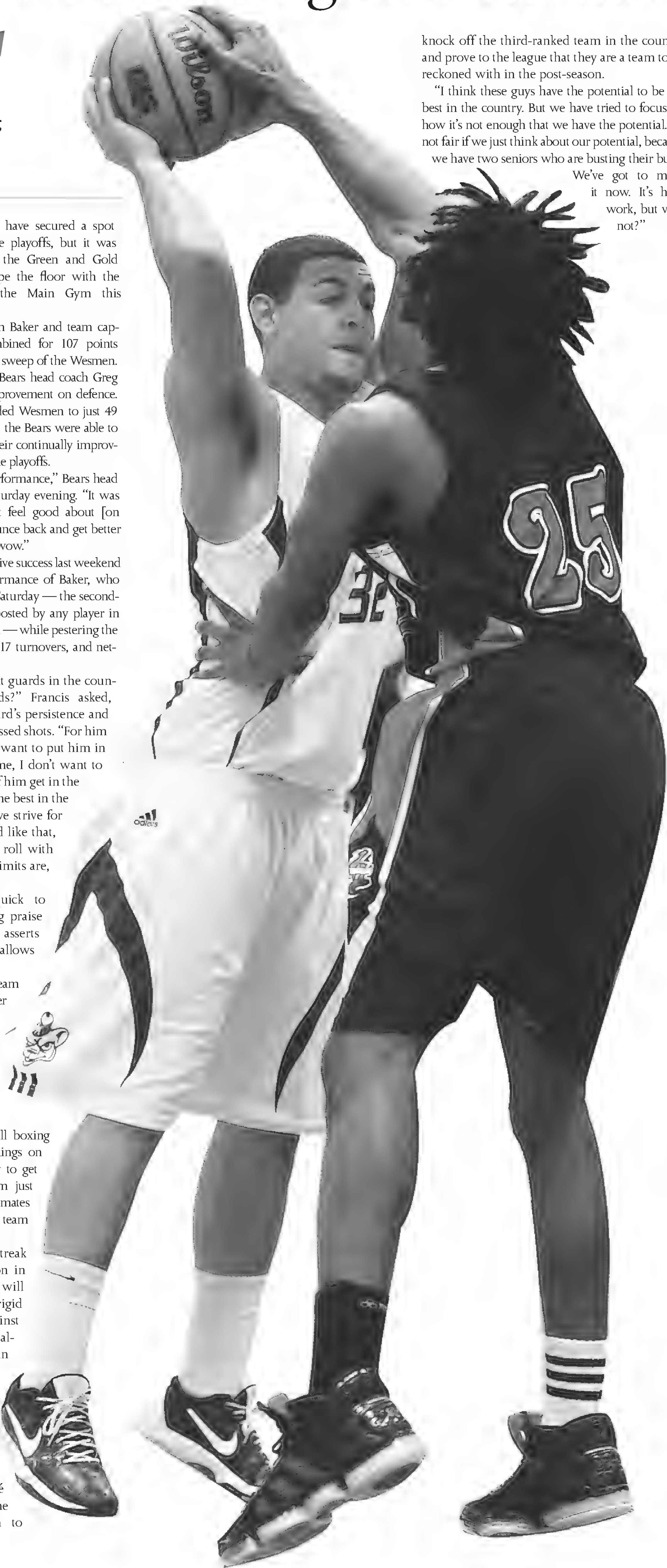
"It's always been a team effort with this team," Baker said. "I think I get the glorious part at the end of the deal because we have guys out here like Todd [Bergen-Henengouwen], Lyndon [Taylor], and [Robert] Dewar. They're all boxing out for position, doing things on the boards. I'm just happy to get the ball in my hands. I'm just happy to have some teammates who are so committed to team rebounding."

Riding a five-game win streak and a guaranteed position in the post-season, the Bears will now head east to the frigid prairies to face off against the defending national-champion Saskatchewan Huskies. While the Bears lost to the Dogs during an exhibition game in early October, the Green and Gold remain confident that the skills they have added to their resumé since the beginning of the season may be enough to

knock off the third-ranked team in the country and prove to the league that they are a team to be reckoned with in the post-season.

"I think these guys have the potential to be the best in the country. But we have tried to focus on how it's not enough that we have the potential. It's not fair if we just think about our potential, because we have two seniors who are busting their butts.

We've got to make it now. It's hard work, but why not?"



Freshman guard leads Pandas, foils formidable foes

basketball roundup

Pandas vs. Winnipeg Wesmen

MATT HIRJI
Sports Editor

With only eight players healthy enough to put on a uniform, the Court Pandas resolve came from an unlikely source in a two-game stretch against the Winnipeg Wesmen this weekend.

could be standing right now. She needs to get to bed and sleep for about a week. She has ice in her veins — the shots that she took and the confidence that she showed in herself. She was pretty scared, but she should be really proud of herself.”

But the Court Pandas success this weekend wasn't held in the hands of just one person. Facing off against the highest-ranked offensive rebounding team in the country, the undersized Pandas needed show a commitment to rebounding.

As the rebounding story line played out over the two-game series, it

“I thought she was going to throw up when they introduced her in the starting line up[...] She was pretty scared, but she should be really proud of herself.”

SCOTT EDWARDS
HEAD COACH, PANDAS BASKETBALL

In an unprecedented display of fitness and poise, the Panda's inexperienced first-year guard, Sally Hillier played all but one minute of the two-game series, leading her team to a split against the formidable Wesmen, racking up a combined 24 points and four assists along the way. As Pandas head coach Scott Edwards explains, while her nerves could have gotten the best of her, this was Hillier's coming-out party.

“I thought she was going to throw up when they introduced her in the starting line-up on Friday night,” Edwards said. “I'm not sure that kid

became apparent the Pandas goals would be accomplished through hard work and determination — chasing down every loose ball with a determined tenacity. The Pandas went toe-to-toe with the Winnipeg squad on the rebounding front, bettering them by a combined total of 25–22 over two matches.

“I was really proud of the team. I usually look at how many offensive rebounds any team gets on a given night. They were the leading team in the country on that front. I think we held our own. I just think that the effort our kids put on, the



PETER HOLMES

commitment to rebounding was outstanding.”

The Pandas effort this weekend has secured them a place in this year's playoffs. If the Green and Gold are to achieve their goal of bringing home a national championship in March, the team's eight remaining players will be challenged to put forth the same grueling effort for the rest of the year

— something that could be easier if they can remain confident in their abilities for the rest of the season.

“Are they going to be able to walk on Monday?” Edwards asked with a laugh. “Our kids are exhausted. They played their butts off for two straight days and they got rewarded. It feels good when you play hard and you get rewarded at the end.”

“After the last couple weeks, where I don't think we played with the right amount of intensity, we just sort of coasted through and were lucky to get some wins. This weekend, we came out and played with the same fire and intensity that we had before Christmas. Now that it's getting closer to playoffs, I think the kids can start smelling the exciting part of the season.”



After his teammate lost a fly ball in the sun, outfielder Mike Cameron was quoted saying, “The sun has been there for 500, 600 years . . .”

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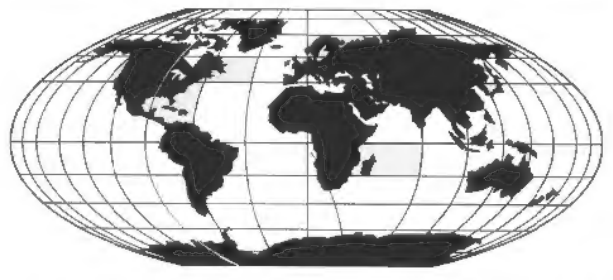
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Don't drag yourself off the carpet

The macho attitude in major league athletics can do more harm than good



BREN CARGILL

Sports Commentary

Last week, as the Chicago Bears jogged out of the locker room for the second half of the NFC championship game, quarterback Jay Cutler didn't have quite the same spring in his step.

After an unsuccessful drive to start the third quarter, Cutler walked at an agonizing pace back to the sidelines, spoke with the team's trainers, and put on his windbreaker to indicate that his day was over — essentially ending his team's chances at qualifying for the Superbowl.

For too long, athletes of high-impact sports have pushed themselves to play through injuries [...] — a choice that has sometimes cost them in devastating ways.

It was at this point that "Cutlergate" began and Twitter exploded, with current and former players questioning Cutler's toughness while accusing him of being a coward.

It has long been a staple in the macho world of sports to play through pain to support your teammates. But there's a difference between being hurt and being injured. Cutler was injured, which is why the criticism he faced was completely unwarranted. Sure, you'd expect an athlete to compete though bumps and bruises, but playing with a torn knee ligament is another situation entirely.

When the Bears' team doctors and Cutler decided his day was over, they were obviously making an informed decision that was in the best interest of both the player and his team. Cutler felt like going back out on the field would only hurt his teammates as he couldn't plant his back leg to throw the ball with any authority. So instead of deriding the Bears' quarterback, maybe he should be commended.



PHOTOS: SUPPLIED

For too long, athletes of high-impact sports have pushed themselves to play through injuries so that their peers do not look down on them — a choice that has sometimes cost them in devastating ways.

Former San Francisco 49er Ronnie Lott injured his finger in the 1985 season and was told that it needed time to heal or it would hamper his ability to play. Instead of waiting for it to heal, he had it cut off so that he wouldn't have to wait to get back onto the field. Years later, the retired Lott probably misses that pinky finger.

In 1991, Oakland Raiders running back Bo Jackson suffered a serious hip injury, the victim of a brutal tackle. He never played football again and was relegated to scraping together a professional baseball career while risking permanent injury to his damaged hip.

Worse still are concussions and other head trauma that impact an

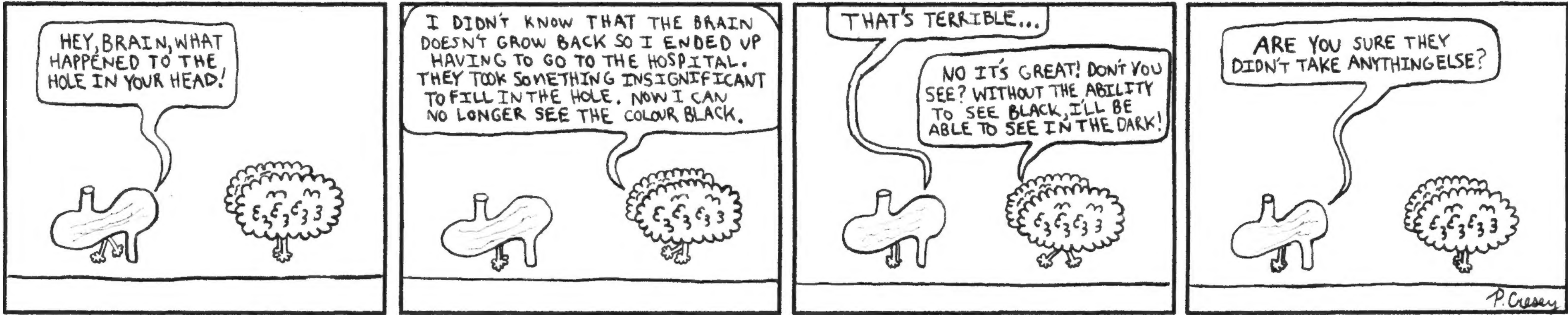
athlete's mental well being for their entire lives. In the midst of the current head shots controversy in the NHL, perhaps we should take a good look at the long-term impacts of repeated hits to the head. Boston Bruins centre Marc Savard is a prime example of an athlete who rushed back onto the playing field too early after a hit to the head. After suffering his fourth concussion in a little under a year in late January, one has to wonder if it would be best for Savard to retire right now while he still has a chance at a normal life after hockey.

Unfortunately like many before him, Savard will be pressured with the fear of gaining a sordid reputation — risking further damage, or worse, if he chooses to suit up in an NHL uniform again.

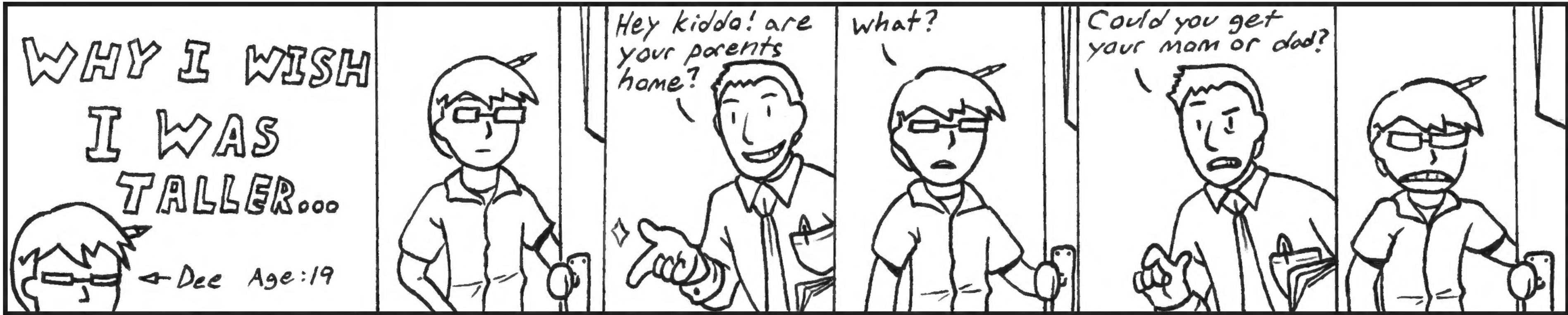
This kind of behavior can't be celebrated any longer. It's time for the health of athletes to take precedence over our desire to watch them play.



THE UNCONSCIOUS KIND by Paul Cressey



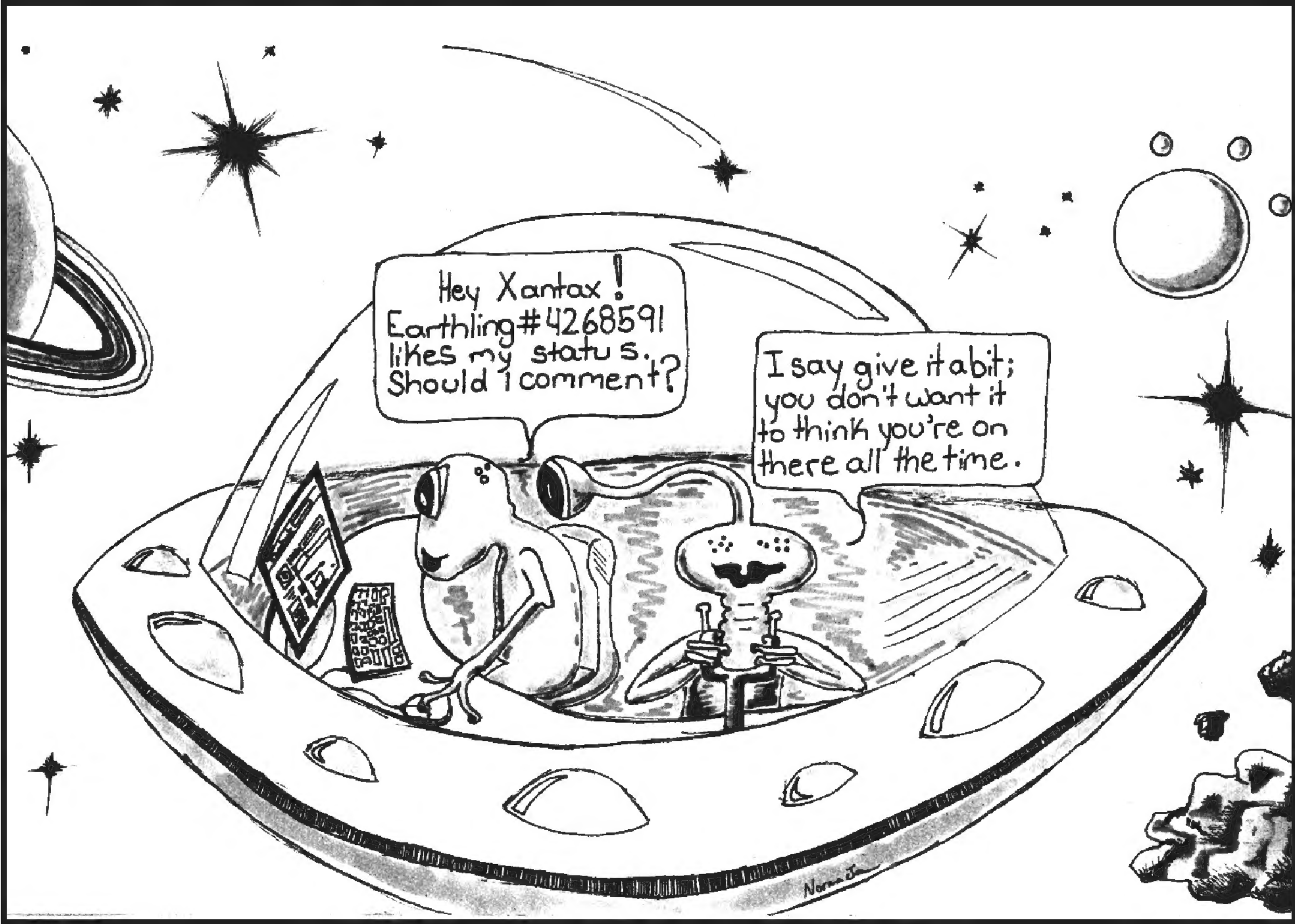
LIFE IN THE SLOW LANE by Derrick Nguyen



GETTIN' LARRY by Bobby Williamson



DEEPSPACEBOOK by Jenna Cotton - Nexus (CUP)



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8. A chowder of cats

9. A puddle of puppies

10. A coalition of cheetahs

11. A convocation of eagles

12. A murder of crows (or ravens)

13. A plague of doves

14. A bunch of ducks (while in water)

15. A squadron of pelicans

16. A brood of hens

17. A flamboyance of flamingoes

18. A horde of gerbils

19. A confusion of guinea fowl

20. A parliament of owls

21. A gam of whales

22. A kine of cows (12 cows to a flink)

23. A richness of martens

24. A scourge of mosquitoes

25. A bevy of otters

26. A mob of emus

27. A sloth of bears

28. A string of ponies

29. A coterie of prairie dogs

30. A bed of clams

31. A ballet of swans

32. A blessing of unicorns

33. A clusterfuck of bees

34. An orgy of feminists

sudoku

4		1	2	9			7	5
2			3			8		
	7			8				6
			1		3		6	2
1		5						3
7	3				8			
6				2			3	
		7			1			4
8	9			6	5	1		7

What the Rack?!?



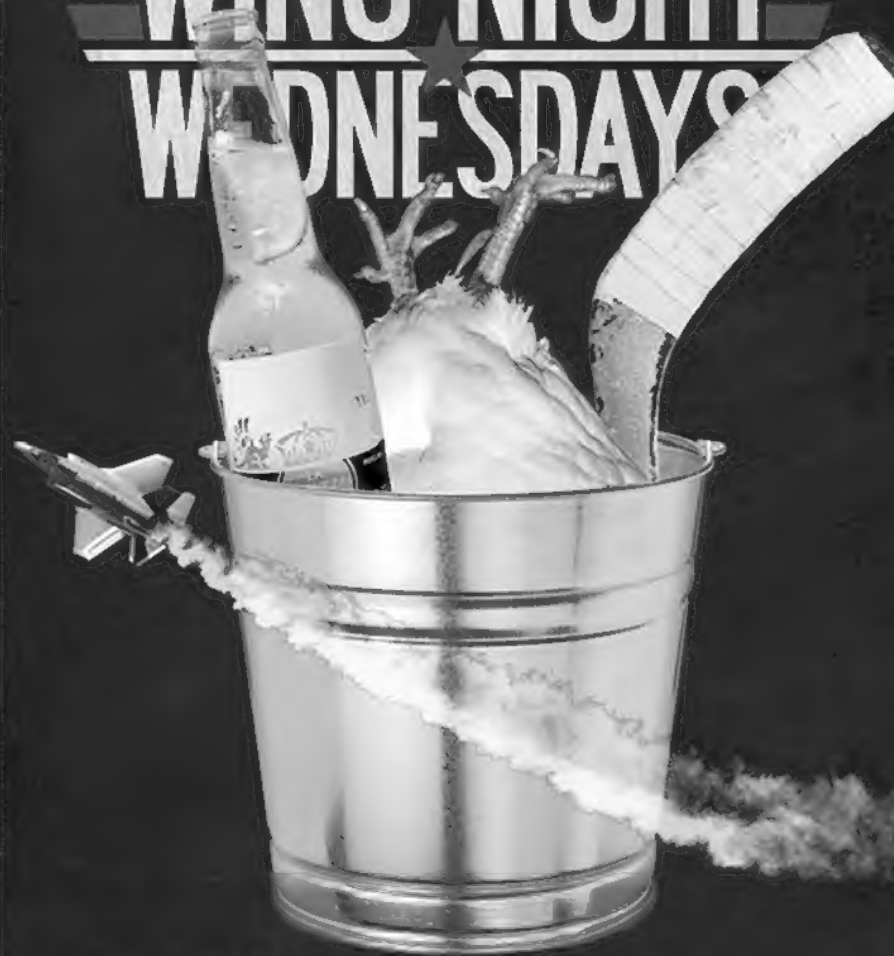
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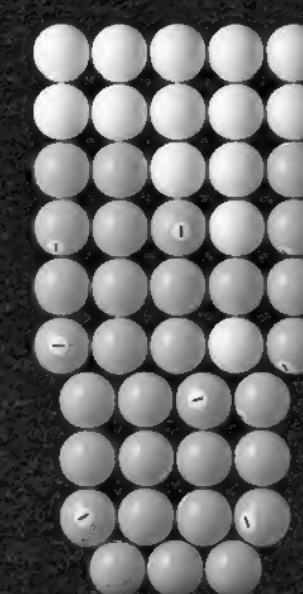


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